

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 ACDA-19 AID-20 AF-10

EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

SIL-01 LAB-06 DRC-01 /202 W  
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O 102256Z OCT 73 ZFF-6

FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0058

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, CI, CU

SUBJ: CHILEAN FONMIN HUERTA'S PRESS CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY: FONMIN HUERTA OF CHILE GAVE 50 MINUTE PRESS CONFERENCE AT UN OCT. 10. IN CALM AND APPARENTLY EFFECTIVE PRESENTATION, HE DEALT WITH REASONS FOR SEPT. 11 COUP, CURRENT SITUATION IN CHILE, PROSPECTS FOR ELECTIONS, RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, AND GOC POLICY RE COPPER COMPANIES. END SUMMARY.

2. IN OPENING STATEMENT, HUERTA SAID THAT HE HAD COME TO NEW YORK SOLELY TO TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT THE SITUATION IN CHILE. HE SUMMARIZED BRIEFLY HIS OCT. 9 SPEECH AT UNGA, AND EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT FONMIN ROA OF CUBA IN HIS REPLY HAD CONFIRMED THE FACT THAT JUNTA HAD FOUND ARMS THAT HAD BEEN BROUGHT IN FROM CUBA AS WELL AS CASTRO'S LETTER TO ALLENDE. MORE SURPRISINGLY, HE SAID, ROA CONFIRMED THAT WEAPONS HAD BEEN SENT TO ARM TO "SO-CALLED POPULAR MILITIA" WHICH WAS DESIGNED TO ATTACK THE REGULAR ARMED FORCES.

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HE DESCRIBED THIS AS UNPRECEDENTED. IN RESPONSE TO LATER

QUESTION RE INTERFERENCE BY CUBA, HUERTA STATED THAT  
"OUR MOVEMENT WAS TOTALLY NATIONAL."

3. AS PART OF OPENING STATEMENT, FONMIN REFERRED TO  
QUESTIONS WHICH HAD BEEN RAISED ABOUT THE UNIVERSITIES  
AND THE CONGRESS. REFERRING TO THE TRADITIONAL INDEPENDENCE  
OF CHILEAN UNIVERSITIES, HE SAID THAT UNDER ALLENDE  
UNIVERSITIES WERE COMPLETELY CONVERTED INTO POLITICAL  
ENTITIES, OVERLOOKING STUDIES. IN RAIDS CONDUCTED AFTER  
SEPT. 11, NOT ONLY POLITICAL PROPAGANDA BUT WEAPONS AND  
EXPLOSIVES HAD BEEN FOUND. THE CURRENT EFFORT BY GOC  
IS TO RETURN THE UNIVERSITIES TO THEIR MISSION OF  
TEACHING. WITH RESPECT TO CLOSURE OF CONGRESS, HE SAID  
THAT MARXIST PARTIES HAVE BEEN OUTLAWED, SINCE THEY  
WERE SO INVOLVED IN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE COUNTRY AND  
WOULD BE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN RECONSTRUCTION. WITH  
ONLY A FEW PARTIES, CONGRESS WOULD BE A FARCE. WHEN CHILE  
HAS RETURNED TO NORMAL, HE SAID, CONGRESS WILL BE RECON-  
STITUTED. DESCRIBING THE LEGISLATURE AS "MOMENTARILY IN  
RECESS", HE SAID THAT LEGISLATIVE POWER IS CURRENTLY BEING  
EXERCISED BY A COMMISSION WITH POWER TO ISSUE DECREE LAWS.

4. QUESTIONER ASKED HUERTA ABOUT ROA STATEMENT IN GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY OCT. 9 REFERRING TO ATROCITIES AND CONCENTRATION  
CAMPS IN CHILE. RE CHARGE OF ATROCITIES, HUERTA SAID THAT  
THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS, THE UN AND PRESS IS  
CORDIALLY INVITED TO COME TO CHILE AND CAN SEE ANYTHING  
IT DESIRES. WITH REFERENCE TO CONCENTRATION CAMPS,  
HUERTA SAID THAT THERE ARE IN FACT DETENTION CENTERS WHICH  
ARE KNOWN BECAUSE THE JUNTA HAS SO STATED AND THAT THESE  
CAMPS ARE OPEN TO INSPECTION BY ANYONE. HE SAID THAT HE  
EXPECTS THAT THE NUMBERS RETAINED WILL BE REDUCED QUICKLY.  
IN RELATED QUESTION CALLING ATTENTION TO CONTRAST BETWEEN  
HUERTA STATEMENTS ON RESPECT FOR LAW IN CHILE AND NEWS  
REPORTS, HUERTA SAID THAT SOME MEMBERS OF PRESS HAD  
DISTORTED THE TRUTH WHEREAS OTHERS HAD NOT, AND THAT HE  
COULD ONLY OFFER HIS WORD AND HIS LONG RECORD AS A MILITARY  
OFFICER.

5. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION OF WHEN FREE ELECTIONS WOULD BE  
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HELD, FONMIN STATED THAT HE WOULD NOT GIVE A DATE BUT  
THAT ELECTIONS OR A PLEBISCITE WOULD BE HELD WHEN ELECTORAL  
REGISTERS HAD BEEN PURGED. HE SAID THAT PRESENT GOVERNMENT  
HAD FOUND THAT WHOLESALE ELECTORAL FRAUD HAD BEEN PER-  
PETRATED AND THAT CLEANING UP WILL BE A LONG JOB. HE CONTINUED  
THAT A RELATED PROBLEM IS THAT "DEPOLITICIZATION" MUST BE  
COMPLETED. GOC WANTS TO ENSURE MORE SIGNIFICANT REPRESENTA-  
TION IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS, MENTIONING SPECIFICALLY TRADE

UNIONS. WHEN CONDITIONS ARE FAVORABLE AND RETURNED TO NORMAL -- IT COULD BE A YEAR, OR MORE, HE SAID -- ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD. HE AFFIRMED THAT THE ARMED FORCES DO NOT WANT TO STAY IN POWER SINCE THEY ARE NOT PREPARED TO GOVERN AND HAVE NO DESIRE TO DO SO. HE SAID THEY ARE PROFESSIONALS AND WANT TO GO BACK TO BARRACKS AND SHIPS.

6. QUERIED RE RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES OF HEMISPHERE, HUERTA DESCRIBED THEM AS EXCELLENT. RE OTHER NATIONS, HE SAID GOC HAD BROKEN RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND NORTH KOREA BECAUSE OF THEIR BLATANT INTERFERENCE IN CHILE'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION AND MOST OF BLOC WERE "SUSPENDED", WITH RELATIONS CONTINUING WITH CHINA, ROMANIA, AND POLAND, HE SAID CHILE IS READY FOR CLOSE RELATIONS WITH ALL LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, STRESSING IMPORTANCE OF REGIONAL TIES.

7. RESPECTING QUESTION OF THE COPPER COMPANIES, FONMIN SAID THAT THIS MUST BE CONSIDERED IN LIGHT OF DECLARATION OF GOC NOT TO DENATIONALIZE BASIC COMMODITIES. NATIONALIZATION DECISION WAS BASED ON UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE CONGRESS AND THE POLICY CANNOT BE CHANGED. REGARDING COMPENSATION, HUERTA SAID THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE WAY THIS WAS CALCULATED. THE "SPECIAL YARDSTICK" WHICH WAS USED MAY HAVE BEEN WRONG. IF GOVERNMENT FINDS THAT THERE WAS A MISTAKE, THIS WILL BE RECOGNIZED. HE INDICATED SYMPATHY WITH THE COMPANIES WHO HAD FOUND THAT RULES HAD BEEN CHANGED OVERNIGHT. THE FOREIGN INVESTOR, HE SAID, MUST BE ABLE TO COUNT ON RULES BEING PERMANENT. THE QUESTION OF COMPENSATION IS BEING STUDIED IN SANTIAGO NOW AND THE DOOR IS OPEN TO FUTURE CONVERSATIONS. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM THE FLOOR AS TO WHETHER CONVERSATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO START SOON, HUERTA SAID THAT GOC HAS HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRELIMINARY CONTACTS WITH ANACONDA AND KENNECOTT. HE SAID THAT ECONOMIC ADVISORS NOW IN NEW YORK WITH HIM ARE HOLDING CONVERSATIONS WITH COMPANIES AND THAT HE EXPECTS MORE DETAILED TALKS WILL TAKE PLACE LATER. HE REITERATED THAT THE PRODUCTION FACILITIES WILL NOT BE RETURNED TO THE COMPANIES, EXPLAINING THAT THE TALKS CONCERNED THE CONDITIONS OF EXPROPRIATION. SCALI

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